

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3 had previously been allowed. However, on the Notice of Allowance, Claim 3 was not listed as an allowed claim. Applicants believe this was merely an omission and Claim 3 should be included in the list of allowed claims. Applicants present the claims below as revised by the Examiner in the Examiner's Amendment transmitted with the Notice of Allowance. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) An isolated SMAD interacting protein or fragment thereof produced by the process comprising:

conducting a two-hybrid screening assay, wherein a SMAD C-terminal domain from SMAD1, SMAD2, OR SMAD5 fused to a DNA-binding domain is used as bait and a vertebrate cDNA library is used as prey in said two-hybrid screening assay;

identifying a SMAD interacting protein or fragment thereof in said two-hybrid assay;

determining that the SMAD interacting protein or fragment thereof binds to E2 box sites and interferes with Brachyury-mediated transcription activation in cells; and

isolating said SMAD interacting protein or fragment thereof.

3. (Previously presented) SMAD interacting protein of the family of zinc finger/homeodomain proteins including d-crystallin enhancer binding protein and/or *Drosophila* zfh-1, wherein said SMAD interacting protein:

does not interact with full size XSMAD1 in yeast,

binds to E2 box sites,

binds to the Brachyury protein binding site,

interferes with Brachyury-mediated transcription activation in cells, and

interacts with a C-domain of SMAD 1, 2 and 5.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a functional fragment thereof, wherein said functional fragment binds to the SMAD1 C-domain in a yeast two-hybrid assay, wherein said SMAD1 C-domain is expressed as a DNA-binding domain fusion in said assay.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 8, together with a suitable carrier.

11-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence depicted as the one letter code QHLGVGMEAPLLGFPTMNSNLSEVQKVLQIVDNTVSRQKMDCKTEDISKLK (SEQ ID NO: 21) necessary for binding with SMAD.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, wherein the functional fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 44-236 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acids 166-236 of SEQ ID NO:2, and amino acids 44-216 of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (Previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a fragment that binds to an E2 box site in an electrophoretic mobility shift assay.

26. (Previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the functional fragment comprises amino acids 77-214 of SEQ ID NO:2.